

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) In a method for connecting ends of first and second flattened tubes, the improvements comprising:
 - (a) cutting-away corners at longitudinal edges of the end of the first flattened tube to form lips at the end of the first flattened tube;
 - (b) separating the lips of the first flattened tube from each other;
 - (c) slipping the end of the second flattened tube between the separated lips of the first flattened tube; and
 - (d) fixing at least one of the lips of the first flattened tube to the end of the second flattened tube between the lips.
2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the end of the second flattened tube is at a distance from locations of intersections of the cut-away corners and the longitudinal edges of the first flattened tube for leaving a space between the longitudinal edges of the flattened tubes.
3. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fixing is at least partly by adhesive tape.
4. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the fixing melts materials of the flattened tubes together.

5. - 12. (canceled)

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fixing is at least partly by adhesive tape.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 2, wherein the fixing melts materials of the flattened tubes together.

15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the fixing melts materials of the flattened tubes together.

16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 13, wherein the fixing melts materials of the flattened tubes together.

17. (previously presented) The method according to claim 4, wherein the materials melt by means of a short time, pressurized supply of heat.

18. (previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein the materials melt by means of a short time, pressurized supply of heat.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the materials melt by means of a short time, pressurized supply of heat.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 16, wherein the materials melt by means of a short time, pressurized supply of heat.